

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DEAE-00 IO-14 JUSE-00 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00

SCI-06 OMB-01 AID-20 IGA-02 DRC-01 /146 W

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R 212120Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8446

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 1637

E.O. 11652: ADS DECLASS 12/31/75

TAGS: EWWT, MMOL, SNAR, HA

SUBJECT: HAITI REQUESTS U.S. ASSISTANCE IN COMBATING DRUG TRAFFIC

1. PRESIDENT DUVALIER CONVOKED ME AUGUST 21 AND DECLARED THAT LAST WEEK (HE DID NOT HAVE EXACT DATE) LARGE SHIPMENT OF MARIJUANA HAD BEEN TRANSFERRED FROM MOTORBOAT TO SEAPLANE OFF JEREMIE. AIRCRAFT TOOK OFF WITH CONSIGNMENT BUT, EVIDENTLY OVERLOADED, JETTISONED ABOUT 15 SACKS, WHICH, RECOVERED BY FISHERMEN AND HANDED OVER TO AUTHORITIES, WERE FOUND TO CONTAIN MARIJUANA. PRESIDENT HAD ONE SUCH SACK BROUGHT INTO HIS OFFICE AND OPENED BEFORE ME.

2. PRESIDENT NOTED THAT THIS WAS MERELY LATEST EVIDENCE THAT HAITIAN WATERS WERE BEING USED AS TRANSSHIPMENT AREAS FOR DRUG TRAFFIC BOUND FOR JAMAICA AND U.S. LOCAL AUTHORITIES, LACKING SUITABLE CRAFT, WERE POWERLESS TO MONITOR SUCH TRAFFIC, AND SWIFTSHIPS STATIONED AT NAVAL BASE PORT-AU-PRINCE WERE TOO LARGE TO PATROL REEF-BOUND HARBORS AND COVES.JTL

3. PRESIDENT REQUEST

U.S. ASSISTANCE IN PROCURING A NUMBER OF SMALL POWER BOATS TO BE OPERATED BY ARMY FOR USE IN CONTROLLING SUCH ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC. HE ENVISAGED COVERAGE BASED IN PRINCIPAL PROVINCIAL PORTS, CONFIDENTIAL

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E.G., JEREMIE, JACMEL, LES CAYES, ST. MARC, GONAIVES,

CAP HAITIEN, PORT DE PAIX--PERHAPS A DOZEN BOATS.
TECHNICAL AID, E.G., INSTRUCTORS, WOULD ALSO BE DESIRABLE.

4. I NOTED THAT EXCESS PROPERTY, RECONDITIONED SMALL
CRAFT MIGHT BE OBTAINABLE THROUGH CUMBERLAND DEPOT; WOULD
GOH BE PREPARED TO PURCHASE SUCH CRAFT IF AVAILABLE? HE
SAID GOH WOULD BUY SEVERAL.

5. PRESIDENT ADDED THAT IN VIEW KEEN USG INTEREST IN
CONTROLLING DRUG TRAFFIC HE WAS ANXIOUS TO COOPERATE IN
OUR MUTUAL INEREST. HE CONSIDERED THIS AN IMPORTANT
MATTER AND HOPED USG WOULD ASSIST.

6. I SAID I WOULD TRANSMIT HIS REQUEST PROMPTLY TO
WASHINGTON, WHICH, I NOTED, ALREADY HAD UNDER CONSIDERATION
REQUEST FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN PROVIDING DRUG-SNIFFING
DOGS FOR PORT-AU-PRINCE CUSTOMS CONTROL (REFTEL P-AU-P 1606).

7. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT'S GUIDANCE ON HOW TO
REPLY TO PRESIDENT, TO REACH ME IF POSSIBLE BY AUGUST 28.
ISHAM

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NNN

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